
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2018

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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Early Childhood Iowa Initiative — Preschool Tuition Assistance

Overview

The Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Initiative was established to allow the State and communities to work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of early care, education, health, and human services provided to families with children ages zero to five. The Initiative is administered by the ECI State Board.

The ECI State Board promotes a vision for a comprehensive early care, education, health, and human services system in this State. The Board consists of 21 voting members, 15 citizen members, and six State agency members. The six State agency members are the Directors or their designees from the following departments: Economic Development Authority, Education, Human Rights, Human Services, Public Health, and Workforce Development; the Board also includes four legislators as nonvoting members. For a more detailed overview of the Early Childhood Iowa Initiative, see the Budget Unit Brief "Early Childhood Iowa General Aid."

Preschool Tuition Assistance

The ECI Preschool Assistance funding is used for early care, health, and education programs to assist low-income parents with tuition for preschool and other supportive services for children ages three to five who are not attending kindergarten. This funding is targeted at families with income up to 200.0% of the federal poverty guideline with tuition for preschool that is not covered under the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children. The ECI Area Boards may provide preschool tuition assistance for those with a family income in excess of the basic income eligibility requirement through use of a sliding scale or other copayment provisions.

Funding

The ECI Preschool Assistance was first funded in FY 2010 and had been appropriated \$5.4 million per year from the General Fund since FY 2012. The funding was distributed to the ECI Areas using the School Readiness Grant formula.

In FY 2018, ECI Preschool Assistance and ECI Family Support were not funded and the General Assembly increased the ECI General Aid appropriation by \$17.0 million.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [256I](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [249](#) and [541—9](#)

More Information

Early Childhood Iowa: www.earlychildhoodiowa.org
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